

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 15 are pending after the amendments.

Claims 5 and 13 are cancelled in this amendment since their limitations have been merged into the independent Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 3, 7, 8, and 11 are also cancelled due to the amendments to Claims 1 and 9. Since Claims 5 and 13 were objected to, the amended Claims 1 and 9 and their dependent Claims 2 and 10 are also allowable.

The examiner rejected Claim 15 as being obvious over Murden's (US Pat. 5,550,492) Fig. 3 (transistors 250, 270, 306, and resistor 310).

The circuit Claim 15 is unrelated to the circuit of Murden's Fig. 3 in structure and function. One embodiment of Claim 15 is Applicant's Fig. 6. Claim 15 recites that the circuit is an emitter follower. Claim 15 recites that the emitter of the first bipolar transistor (Q16) provides the output of the emitter follower circuit. The claimed "first isolation resistor" is between the output and the "first current source." The "first isolation resistor" value is "chosen to reduce an in-rush current into a capacitance between the first isolation resistor and the current source to reduce distortion in an output signal of the circuit when the first input signal is applied to the base."

In Murden's Fig. 3, the circuit that the examiner references (transistors 250, 270, 306, and resistor 310) is a differential amplifier whose output is the collector of the current source. The resistor 310 connected between the collector and the emitters of transistors 250 and 270 has a specific value chosen to provide a voltage drop of "one fourth of the full scale range of the magamp inputs V_{in114} and V_{in116} . (Col. 5, lines 15-17.) Although the examiner stated that the value of resistor 310 can be set to any value, Murden states otherwise. Setting the value of resistor 310 to Murden's stated value is key to the circuit operating correctly.

In Claim 15, the output at the emitter is the base voltage minus the base-emitter voltage drop. In Murden's Fig. 3, the output at the collector is a result of the current through the resistor 310. The functions of the two circuits (emitter follower vs. differential amplifier) are unrelated, and the functions and properties of the resistors (value set to reduce in-rush current vs. value set to achieve one-fourth the range of V_{in} and V_{in116}) are unrelated.

Accordingly, the examiner has not met his burden of proof that Claim 15 is obvious over Murden. There cannot be any suggestion to modify Murden's circuit to have a completely different function. No prior art in combination with Murden could render Claim 15 obvious since the Murden circuit is unrelated to the emitter follower of Claim 15. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is allowable.

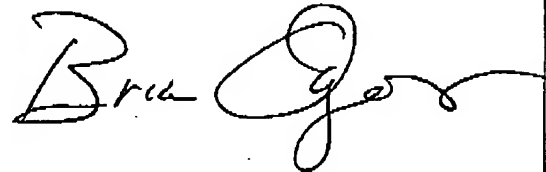
Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

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Respectfully submitted,



Brian D. Ogonowsky
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,988